

Charles and Ruth Abbott
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Delta Jct., AK 99737
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Dear Commissioners:

We have made the choice to live near Delta Jct., an area where we trade a lack of "conveniences" for no taxes. We have exchanged governmental bureaucracy and regulations for fewer options in employment, shopping, entertainment, and schools. It is our choice, at least so far.

We are being pressured to form an organized borough under the pretext that we are not "paying our fare share" in regards to education. This is not a legitimate argument for two reasons.

The first reason is that according to our state constitution it is the state's responsibility to provide schools for the state of Alaska. This is to ensure that communities that cannot support a tax base will still have schools. Much of Alaska would be without schools if the "pay your fare share" mentality were to be enforced statewide.

The second reason is that the community *does* generate money to the state by way of taxes levied against thirty-eight miles of the pipeline. Incorporation into an organized borough would mean that some funds now going to the state would be diverted to the borough.

So the real question is whether or not there is a tax base in this area. We think not for the following reasons:

Much of the Delta area's population consists of farmers, Russian Immigrants and retirees. According to Alaska labor statistics, the current unemployment rate for the Delta area is 14.1%. That is more than double the rates of Fairbanks and Anchorage which are 6.6% and 5.1% respectively. Compare Delta's 14.1% to the statewide unemployment rate of 7.6%.

The majority of the jobs being generated by the Missile Defense and Pogo Mine are going to people from outside the community. Missile Defense workers are taking up residence at Ft. Greely housing or at the Man Camp. The jobs are temporary in nature, filled by employees that have no intention of staying in the area when the work is done.

Thank you for your time, and please take our concerns into consideration in your decision making process.

Sincerely,
Charles and Ruth Abbott